

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 17, and 26-37 remain in this application. Claim 7 was previously canceled. Claims 18-25 were previously withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Claims 36 and 37 are new. Claims 9-16, which were previously withdrawn pursuant to our election in response to a restriction requirement, have now been canceled without prejudice.

Formal drawings that include drawing changes approved by the Examiner are enclosed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,563,899 to Meissner et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,094,297 to Injeyan et al. The Meissner reference has a patent date that falls within the requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). However, the Applicant respectfully submits that 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is not a proper basis for rejection under the Injeyan reference, which was patented less than a year before the filing date of the present application. Claim 1 has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art. Claims 2 and 3 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim. Claims 36 and 37 have been added and incorporate the limitations of original claims 4 and 5 to depend from amended claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Injeyan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,393 to Fulbert et al. Following the amendment of claim 1, claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that it depends from an allowable dependent claim.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Injeyan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,084,889 to Tajima. Claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that it depends from claim 1, an allowable base claim.

Allowed Claims

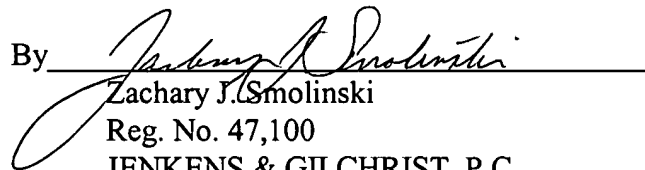
The applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 5 have been rewritten as indicated and are considered to have the same scope as when originally submitted.

The applicant acknowledges with thanks the allowance of claims 17 and 26-35.

In view of the Examiner's restriction requirement, the Applicant retains the right to present claims 9-16 and 18-25 in a divisional application.

No fees are believed due for the filing of this Amendment. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required while the application is pending (except the issue fee) to Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47080-00033.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Zachary J. Smolinski
Reg. No. 47,100
JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C.
225 West Washington Street, Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60606-3418
(312) 425-3900

Attorneys for Applicant